(b) As per MoU on Indo-China Scientific Expedition to the sources of two great rivers Brahmaputra and Sutlej, six scientists from India and China and two climbers from India including supporting members are to undertake a joint expedition in June, 2007. The study area is mainly restricted in Tibet and the Brahmaputa River Valley.

(c) and (d) Do not arise as the expedition has not yet commenced.

**Sanctioning of irrigation projects in Bihar**

864. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects sanctioned in Bihar during the last three years stating the details thereof, indicating their present status;

(b) the number of canals in which water is flowing and the number of canals which are lying dry causing hardship to farmers in irrigating their fields; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the canal irrigation facilities in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Two irrigation projects, namely Punpun Barrage Scheme and Restoration work of Eastern Gandak Canal System have been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission during the last three years. The financial and physical details of these two proejcts are given in Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Irrigation being a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government as per their own requirements and priority of works. However, as per information provided by Government of Bihar, the details of designed discharge/average discharge of the canals under major irrigation projects in the Bihar State are as follows:

(In cusecs)

| Canal system | Designed discharge | Average discharge |
|---|---|---|
| Sone Canal System | | |
| 1. Western Link Canal | 12700 | 9395 |
| 2. Eastern Link Canal | 4400 | 4550 |
| Kosi Canal System | | |
| 1. Eastern Kosi Main Canal | 15000 | 7500 |
| 2. Western Kosi Main Canal | 6459 | 900 |
| Gandak Canal System | | |
| 1. Main Western Canal | 18000 | 10850 |
| 2. Main Eastern Canal | 15664 | 6500 |
| 3. Tirhut Main Canal | 5462 | 4000 |
| 4. Saran Main Canal | 8500 | 4200 |
| North Koel Canal | | |
| 1. Below R.D. 107.50 of Main Canal | 2000 | 1100 |

Government of Bihar has adopted various measures for improving the irrigation facilities through canals such as transfer of operation and maintenance of canals by the farmers' organisations. Under this scheme, 46 numbers of farmers' organizations have been formed and they have been entrusted with activities such as operation and maintenance of canals. The area covered by these canals is 1,47,763 hectares. Also, a proposal of correction of system deficiencies in Munahara Canal System (Kosi CAD project) of Government of Bihar (having CCA of 3648 ha.) has been approved for providing Central assistance under the CADWN Programme for an estimated cost of Rs. 122 lakhs.

***Statement***

*The Financial and Physical details of the Irrigation projects*

(Rs. in crore/potential in the th.ha)

| SI. No, | Name of the Project | Plan 01 start | F Approval by | | Estimated cost | Cum. Expendi-ture upto 3/06 | Outlay for 2006-07 | Ultimate potential | Cum. Potential created upto 3/06 | Anticipated potential creation during 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Commission Original | | Latest | | | | | |
| 1 | Punpun Barrage Scheme | IX | 2006 | | 224.82 | 12.22 | 52.60 | 13.68 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | Resoration work of Eastern Gandak Canal System | X | 2004 | 294.00 | 294.00 | 2.14 | 10.00 | 437.00 | , 0.00 | 100.00 |